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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY,

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HINTS ON HOME TANNING.

Skins may be tanned either with the hair on or off, as desired Hair can be removed from hides by soaking them in tepid water made alkaline by lye or lime. The following recipe for a tanning liquor is in common use: To each gallon of water add one quart of salt and one-half ounce of sulphuric acid. This mixture should not be kept in a metal container. Thin skins are tanned by this liquor in one day; heavy skins must remain in it longer. The may remain in it indefinitely without harm. When removed from the liquor, they are washed several times in soapy water, wrung as dry as possible, and rubbed on the flesh side with a cake of hard soap. They are then folded in the middle, lengthwise, over a line, hair side out and left to dry. When both surfaces are barely dry, and the interior is still moist, they are laid over a smooth, rounded board and scraped on the flesh side with the edge of a worn flat file, or a similar blunt-edged tool. In this way an inner layer is removed and the skins become nearly white in color. They are then stretched, rubbed, and twisted until quite dry. If parts of a skin are still hard or stiff, the sosping, drying, and stretching process is repeated until the entire skin is soft. Fresh butter, or other animal fat, worked into skins while they are warm and then worked out again in dry hardwood sawdust, or extracted by a hasty bath in gasoline, increase their softness.

